

Fire/Arson Investigation

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FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS

The Fire/Arson Investigation Section continues to provide technical assistance to fire and law enforcement agencies throughout the state of Utah. Numerous schools and seminars were taught during the past year throughout the state. Any agency who would like to have a school or seminar taught at their fire department or law enforcement agency should call this office and we will be happy to teach any type of school that is needed to basic cause and origin to advanced techniques of arson investigation.

Investigator Jim Dudzinski was nominated as first vice president in the Utah Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI). Jim has served in varying capacities in the IAAI for several years, has thoroughly enjoyed his assignments, and he has made many good friends.



During the annual training seminar held in Wendover, Nevada, Dr. John Dehaan was the guest speaker. John has written several books on arson investigation and he presented one of the best schools that has been taught for several years. One thing is for certain - change in the arson investigation world is ongoing. John has been a leader in that arson investigation world and has done extensive research world wide during his career. John has been responsible for many of the new and innovative research methods that are currently being used throughout the arson investigation world.

During the past year, two deputies of the office have begun training in the arson investigation field. Todd Hohbein has a field office in Cedar City and covers the southern end of the state for code enforcement and basic arson investigation. Kim Passey completed the police academy during the past year and Kim is currently working out of the main office in Murray. Kim has many years of fire service experience and is actively learning to do arson investigations and other code certification requirements. Having two additional deputies trained in cause and origin and arson investigation will add depth to our existing staff and enables the Fire Marshal's Office to better serve the entire fire service in Utah.

Just a reminder to everyone involved in fire/arson investigation: Utah state law requires that every fire department in the state shall determine the cause and origin of every fire. Utah Code 53-7-210 and 53-7-214, are the specific legal references fire departments to reference.

The goal of the fire/arson section is to provide fire and law enforcement agencies throughout Utah a quality technical resource that is not always available at the local level. We diligently strive to provide assistance in fire scene reconstruction, cause and origin determination, fire/arson investigations, expert witness testimony and classroom instruction. Fire is still a major economic and social problem in Utah as well as throughout the country. We should all strive to do comprehensive, fair, and open minded cause and origin investigations and unbiased arson investigations.

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